

Update Rock Island News Release

10/20/08

Media Contact:

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Starting October 20, 2008 Mayor Mark Schwiebert will incorporate a new program into City Council meetings to announce the good things happening in Rock Island. Called Update Rock Island, the mayor will spend five minutes at the beginning of Council meetings to publicize community news. Items could include new programs and initiatives in the City, awards won, new business openings and expansions, and community events.

Update Rock Island Announced

The video will also be available the Tuesday following the Council meeting on the City's web site www.rigov.org and public access cable channel 9. A written summary will be available on the City's web site as well as sent to local media. To receive the information via email, sign up for the Update Rock Island eNews at www.rigov.org.

Jumer's Casino Rock Island Pays Last Rebate Repayment to City

Jumer's Casino Rock Island has paid their last rebate repayment check to the City, and a total rebate of \$7,993,381 has been paid over eight years. In 1995, the Casino hit some hard times, as the Iowa Quad City gaming boats had dockside, and revenues were down. Starting in June 1995, the City agreed to suspend additional docking fees paid by the Casino and to rebate back to the Casino the Gaming Tax Payments paid to the City by the State of Illinois. In April 2000, the Casino started repaying the suspended fees and rebated tax payments. As the Casino gets ready to open its new \$150 million facility in Southwest Rock Island in December, the strong public-private partnership of the Casino and the City will continue to bring outstanding results to our community.

Advanced Technology & Sustainability Consortium Continues to Meet

The Advanced Technology & Sustainability Consortium (ATSC) continues to meet monthly to learn about new technology or green opportunities. Created in March 2006, this group of businesses meets to network with each other and helps determine how the City can better support businesses that are technology oriented or have an interest in sustainable processes or products.

Historic Architecture Brochures Available

New and upgraded historic architecture brochures are now available from the Rock Island Preservation Commission. The brochures contain historical and architectural descriptions, modern and historical photographs, and location maps. *Stroll These Sidewalks* is a fold-out map brochure highlighting 14 areas, while the others are booklets. *Rock Island History* chronicles Rock Island's past from Native American settlements to World War II and is a favorite tool for schools. *Rock Island's Modernistic Architecture* highlights 20 Art Moderne and Art Deco styled buildings, plus includes an explanation of the architectural movement and a glossary. *KeyStone Neighborhood Driving Tour* and *1918 Government Housing* are neighborhood-based tours. *The John Looney Legend Tour* includes 50 Rock Island buildings and sites associated with the notorious gangster John Looney. Brochures are available at City Hall, Rock Island Main Library, or can be downloaded from www.rigov.org.

Trick-or-Treat

Trick-or-treat hours will be observed in Rock Island on Friday, October 31 from 5 to 8 p.m.